

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A half-duplex communication control method in which a first device and a second device are connected by two signal lines and each of the ~~two devices~~ first device and second device notifies the other device of a state related to whether each device is communicable, and half-duplex communication in one-to-one correspondence is conducted, said method comprising:

the first device outputting a sending request output for providing notification of a state of a communication request from the first device to the second device as a sending request signal using an open collector buffer and also turning back ~~its~~ said sending request output inside the first device to check a communicable state inside the first device, and

if the second device is receivable with respect to the sending request signal sent from the first device, the second device outputting a sending permission output for providing notification of a communicable state from the second device to the first device as a sending permission signal using an open collector buffer and also turning back ~~its~~ said sending permission output inside the second device to check a communicable state inside the second device.

2. (currently amended): A half-duplex communication control method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~after outputting sending request outputs simultaneously from said first device and said second device, with respect to respective times of said first device and said second device~~ which elapses before outputting another sending request output ~~if outputting sending~~

~~request outputs simultaneously from two devices, time respectively varying with respect to the two devices is vary and are randomly determined by a program of a microcomputer.~~